

March 20, 1984

LB 1106

that at this time and place it below the other committee amendments.

SENATOR CLARK: All right, we will pass over it. The next amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Sieck, Richard Peterson, Remmers, Nichol, Lamb, Hefner and Kahle. It is found on page 1557 of the Journal.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, this is an amendment that in effect lets the full Legislature decide whether the Governor should or should not have the authority to appoint a Director of Natural Resources. As you look at this amendment found on page 1551 (sic.) of the Journal, you will see that it strikes Section 12 of the standing committee amendments which is the section creating the position of Director of Natural Resources appointed by the Governor. It reinstates the Executive Secretary of the Natural Resources Commission where the Director had been given duties. Reinstates the Resource Development Fund Advisory Board and makes it clear that the NRC is responsible for establishing state goals for water resources used as required in Section 4 and 7 of the bill. And Section 4 numbers the remaining sections accordingly. Now I want to make it clear from the beginning that unless you adopt this amendment you will be making a significant change in the policy of this body and this state in the area of water laws and policy. I say this because the bill in its present form makes a drastic shift from a theme of local control to a theme of centralized control by broadening the powers of the Governor. I would like to take time to give you a history lesson as to how the present day NRC evolved and the extent of the Governor's control in this evolution. In 1937 the Soil Conservation Committee was formed. It consisted of a three member board of ex-officio members, all of which came from the University structure. None of these members were appointed by the Governor. In 1951 the committee membership was expanded to five, but still none of the five were appointed by the Governor and in 1957 the now